



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 90

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Dainius Baublys (Lithuania)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 60/49 of 8 December 2005.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 October 2007, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 88 to 105, which was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 8 to 11 and on 15 and 16 October (see A/C.1/62/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 12 meetings (9th to 20th), for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/62/PV.9-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, also at the 9th to 20th meetings, from 17 to 19, from 22 to 26 and on 29 October (see A/C.1/62/PV.9-20). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 21st to 25th meetings, from 30 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/62/PV.21-25).
4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.26

5. At the 15th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African



States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" (A/C.1/62/L.26).

6. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "sixty-third session" with the words "sixty-fourth session".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.26, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8 The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,² which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Taking note of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,³ affirming that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, *de jure* or *de facto*, internationally responsible and that lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁴ that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude

¹ See A/50/426, annex.

² A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

³ S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;⁵

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

⁵ International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).